

even found confirmation of the rumour in the so-called "opening" of the Yangtze river. China, we are asked to believe, is at last to be thrown open to the energy and enterprise of the barbarian who has for decades been knocking at her gates; railways are to unite by a new bond her many-millioned provinces; her mineral resources, rich and varied, and as yet unrecked of by the speculator, are to be laid bare; and over the vast empire which has so long lain in the darkness of an exclusive and unelastic civilisation an era of progress is about to dawn. We wish that such statements were true, no less for China's sake than for the commercial world at large. We are afraid, however, that it is a dream, the full realisation of which at all events is not yet. Nor does the reported opening of the port of Chung-king on the Upper Yangtze mean much. The Chinese have been very careful to introduce a condition which really leaves matters much as they were. No steamers, they say, shall ascend the Upper River until steamers of their own lead the way. Just so, and when will that be?

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CHINESE BOY.

It is no exaggeration to say that there is nothing really intellectual in any part of the early schooling of an ordinary Chinese boy. As a rule the teacher does not concern himself with his pupils, further than to drag them over a specified course, or at least to attempt to do so. The parents of the lad are equally indifferent, or even more so. If the father can himself read, he remembers that he learned to do so by a long and thorny road, and he thinks it natural that his son should traverse it likewise. If he cannot read, he recognises the fact that he knows nothing at all about the matter, and that it is his business to interfere. The teacher is hired to teach—let him do it. At home the pupil has no mental stimulus of any sort, no books, magazines or papers, and if he had them, his barren studies at school would not have fitted him to comprehend such literature. The range of characters which he has learned, often very imperfectly, is totally different from those in common use, and largely of no value except as a step to the classics. If the pupil goes on, as a small proportion of them do, after having theoretically mastered the classics, to study literary composition, his tasks are far more difficult than before. Chinese composition is an exceedingly intricate study, and requires a highly developed memory, wide acquaintance with the written character, and a space which must be almost infinite. For those who do not go so far as to learn to compose, their education may be said to be finished before it is fairly under way. When it is dead and buried, as it is not improbably will be within a few years, it might appropriately have carved upon its tomb-stone the epitaph said to have marked the resting place of a still-born infant.

Considering the utter uselessness of his studies, which are not compared to "gnawing a wooden peg," it is by no means singular that the great majority of pupils when they leave school, cast aside all their little stock of learning, as a worn-out pair of shoes belonging to their early days, but of no subsequent value. Notwithstanding the vast number of books in the lists of Chinese literature, there are very few which are popularly available. The books to be found in an average Chinese house, albeit some of the inmates can "read," are generally scant in number, and limited in range—perhaps the one most sure to have been read is the historical novel called "The Three Kingdoms." Beyond the style and the characters of the novel, the capacity of most lads who have had only five or six years of schooling. The cheap little books which are everywhere sold, are full of false characters, badly printed, and so difficult to comprehend for a boy with but a limited knowledge, that they might as well be written in Egyptian hieroglyphics. The practical result is that the whole education of a vast number of Chinese boys has the same relation to their subsequent life, as a familiarity with the "tones" of the Greek language, has to the business career of the man who has graduated from an English university. The years from Oxford, what signifies it? They are alike far beyond the capacity of most lads who have had only five or six years of schooling. The cheap little books which are everywhere sold, are full of false characters, badly printed, and so difficult to comprehend for a boy with but a limited knowledge, that they might as well be written in Egyptian hieroglyphics. The practical result is that the whole education of a vast number of Chinese boys has the same relation to their subsequent life, as a familiarity with the "tones" of the Greek language, has to the business career of the man who has graduated from an English university.

There is one incident in the life of the Chinese lad which assumes in his eyes some degree of importance, to which most occidental boys are strangers. This is the ceremony of donning the cap, in other words of becoming a man and his marriage. The age at which this takes place is far from being a fixed one, but is often in the vicinity of sixteen. The customs observed are doubtless very varied, but in rural districts they frequently consist in nothing more exciting than the playing by a band of music in the evening before his marriage, and a visit on the part of the young man to each house in the village where he makes his prostration, much as at the New Year, and is henceforth to be considered a full-grown man, and is protected to some extent from snubs because he is "only a child." The more conspicuous part of the affair, however, is the wedding. This proceeding is based on principles so radically different from those which we are accustomed to that it is generally hard for a Westerner to become reconciled either to the Chinese theory or to the practice. To us, marriage seems suitable for persons who have attained, not merely years of puberty, but a certain maturity of development, compatible with the new relations which they now assume. We regard the man and wife as the basis and centre of a new family, and there is ancient and adequate authority for the doctrine that they should leave father and mother. In China it is altogether otherwise. The boy and girl who are married are not a new family, but the latest branch in a tall family tree, independent of which they have no corporate existence. It is by no means uncommon for boys to be married at the age of ten, although this is regarded as a trifling premature. The physical, intellectual, or moral development of the parties concerned has nothing whatever to do with the matter of their marriage, which is an affair controlled by wholly different considerations. Sometimes it is hastened because an old grandmother is in feeble health and insists upon seeing the main business of life done up before she is called away. Sometimes the motive is to settle the division of a piece of property so that it shall be impossible for the older heirs to retreat from the settlement. Quite as often the real motive for hastening the wedding is the need felt in the boy's family of an additional servant, which need will be supplied by the introduction of a new bride. It is for this reason that so many Chinese women are older than their husbands. When they are betrothed, the

bigger they are the better, because they can do all the more work. To a Chinese there is no more sense of incongruity in marrying a little slip of a boy, simply because he is young and perhaps not more than half the size of his bride, than there would be in playing checkers with buttons, and then crowning the first button that happened to get to the king row. What signifies whether the button is a small one or a large one since it has reached the last row, and has now a set of moves of its own, a fact which must be recognised by doubling itself. It is not otherwise with the Chinese boy. He is a double button. It is true, but he is nothing but a button still and a small one, and is but an insignificant part of a wide and complicated game. During the celebration of a Chinese wedding it does not strike the spectator that the bridegroom is the centre of interest, and the bride is so only for the time being and in consequence of the curiosity which is felt to see what sort of a bargain the family has made in getting her. The young man is ordered out of the apartment where he has been kept in ambush—according to the customs in some regions—like an ox for the sacrifice. He is to fall upon his knees at a word of command, and to do so with intermitting sequence to a great variety of persons, until his knees are stiff and his legs lame. His eyes are fixed upon the ground, as if in deepest humility and the most awkward Chinese youth will perform the details of this trying ordeal with a natural grace, with which the most well-bred occidental youth could scarcely hope to vie, and which he assuredly could not hope to surpass. When the complicated protracted ceremonies are all over, our young lad is, it is true, a married man, but he is not the "head" of any family, not even of his own. He is still under the same control of his father as before, his bride is under the control of the mother-in-law to a degree which it is difficult for us to comprehend. If the youthful husband is trying to learn to compose essays, the marriage does not at all interrupt his educational enterprise, and as soon as the ceremonies are over, he goes on just as before. If he is dull, and cannot make the "seven empty parties"—the terror of the inept Chinese essayist—into his laborious sentences to the satisfaction of his teacher, he is not unlikely to be beaten over the head for his lack of critical acumen, and can then go weeping home to have his wife stick a black gummy plaster over the area of his chastisement. We have known a Chinese boy who had the dropsy in an aggravated form but who could not be persuaded to take a single dose of medicine that was at all bitter. "If he was pressed to do so by his fond mother, he either 'rowed,' or cried. If he was not allowed to eat two whole water-melons at a time his tactics were the same, a domestic scene either of violent temper, or dismal howling grief. He was merely prolonging into youth the plan universally adopted in the childhood of Chinese children. Yet this sensitive infant of seventeen had been married for several years, and leaves a widow to mourn the circumstance that drugs, drops, and water-melons, have blighted her existence.

The Chinese boy generally learns well two valuable lessons, and the thoroughness with which they are mastered does much to atone for the great defects of his training in other regards. He learns obedience and respect for authority, and he learns to be industrious. In most cases the latter quality is the condition of his continued existence, and those who refuse to submit to the inexorable law, are disposed of by that law, to the great advantage of the survivors. But of intellectual independence he has not the faintest conception, or even a capacity of comprehension. He does as others do, and neither knows nor can imagine any other way. If he is "educated," his mind is like a sub-soil pipe, filled with all the drainage which has ever run through the ground. A part of this drainage originally came, it is true, from the skies, but it has been considerably altered in its constituents since that time; and a much larger part is a wholly human secretion, painfully lacking in chemical purity. In any case, it is the content of his mind, and it is all of its contents. If, on the other hand, the Chinese youth is uneducated, and partly full of whatever is flowing or blowing over the surface. He is not indeed destitute of humility, in fact, he is a most depressing amount of it. He knows that he knows nothing, that he never did, never shall never can know anything, and also that it makes very little difference what he knows. The long, broad black and hopeless shadow of Confucianism is over him. It means a high degree of intellectual cultivation and often bigoted, and for the many it means a lifetime of intellectual stagnation. Measured by what has been totally failed to do, when it might and should have done it, we charge Confucianism with being intellectually one of the most elaborate, compendious, and far-reaching failures which has ever wrought out its ultimate results upon this distracted earth.—N. C. Daily News.

TIENTSIN.

The Chevalier Pansa, Italian Minister to China, has arrived here, en route to Peking. The Peking river is, if anything worse. The grain junk, about 90 of which have arrived, cannot pass up. One or two have succeeded in getting to the Tientsin Reach, but have failed as yet to come further. The Board of Revenue are reported to have granted Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hu-Kwang, an appropriation of two million taels for the development of Iron Works in Hupei. This looks like business, and it ought to make the Viceroy Court as attractive as a hoghead of treacle to a swarm of wasps. A fire broke out on Saturday night last in a tea workshop from the office of the Peking Road. The Customs and Municipal engines were quickly on the spot and soon had the fire under. There was a fresh wind blowing at the time, and great damage would have been done had the fire not been promptly extinguished. For some few years the formation of a properly equipped fire brigade has been among various suggestions put forward by the moving spirits in the settlement, and now that buildings are multiplying and the risk of such a body would be an indication, if nothing else, of the advance in the direction of utilitarianism, more of which perhaps might be taken up into life in the East without detriment either public or personal. The settlement is well served by the natives under the direction of the inspectors of police and the Customs, but it would be infinitely better if the residents would take the matter into their own hands.—Chinese Times.

The great value of Scott's Emulsion of Pure Liver Oil with Hypophosphites in Wasting Diseases is shown by the accompanying statement from D. C. Freeman, Sydney, Aust. "Having been a great sufferer from pulmonary attacks and gradually wasting away for the past two years, it affords me great pleasure to testify that the above medicine has given me great relief, and cheerfully recommend it to all suffering in a similar way to myself. In addition I would say that it is very pleasant to take." Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. Watson & Co. (Lid.), Agents in Hongkong and China.—Advt.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

LATE THE HALL & HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY, LIMITED.)

1890. SUMMER SEASON, 1890.

TAILORING DEPARTMENT.

WE are now showing a large and varied assortment of HIGH CLASS MATERIALS for Gentlemen's Summer Wear, comprising:—
Fine Undyed Angora Tweeds,
Fancy Striped Washing Cashmeres,
Striped and Check Flannels,
Twill Cashmere Coatings (a specialty),
Tennis Flannels in all colors,
White and Navy Blue Serges,
Cricketing Flannels, &c., &c.

OUTFITTING DEPARTMENT.

Sun Helmets, newest Shapes,
Straw Hats, Terai Hats,
Leghorn Hats, Canvas Shoes,
Russia Leather Shoes,
Lisle Thread and Silk Hosiery,
Bath Towels,
Bathing Drawers, &c., and every requisite for Gentlemen.

1890. SUMMER SEASON, 1890.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

(Late THE HALL & HOLTZ C. Co., Ltd.)

Hongkong, 10th May, 1890

Today's Advertisements.

ST. JOHN LODGE
OF HONGKONG,
No. 618, S.C.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, THIS EVENING, the 13th instant, at 8 for 8.30 O'CLOCK precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [736]

ZETLAND LODGE,
No. 525.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, on TUESDAY NEXT, the 20th instant, at 5 for 5.30 P.M. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [737]

THE CHINA SHIPPERS' MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES,
FROM LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship "KAISOW" having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, are being landed at their risk into the Godowns, of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, West Point, whence delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all claims must be sent in to the Office of the Undersigned before Noon, on the 19th instant, or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 19th instant, at 4 P.M. No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 19th instant, will be subject to rent. Optional Cargo will be forwarded under notice to the contrary be given before 10 a.m., TO-DAY, the 13th inst. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [732]

THE CHINA SHIPPERS' MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.

THE Company's Steamship "KAISOW" Geo. L. Castle, Commander, will be despatched for the above Ports, TO-MORROW, the 14th inst., at 9 A.M.

For Freight, apply to ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [733]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, & TAIWANFOO.

THE Company's Steamship "THALES" Captain Hunter, will be despatched for the above Ports, on THURSDAY, the 15th instant, at 11 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFFRAIK & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [733]

STEAM TO STRAITS AND BOMBAY.

(Calling at Colombo if sufficient inducement offered).

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship "THIBET" will leave for the above places, on FRIDAY, the 23rd inst., at DAYLIGHT.

E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [735]

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE.

(Calling at PORT DARWIN and QUEENSLAND PORTS, and taking through Cargo to NEW ZEALAND, TASMANIA, &c.)

THE Steamship "MENMUIR" Captain Craig, will be despatched for the above Ports, on MONDAY, the 26th instant, at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 13th May, 1890. [736]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

MR. THOMAS JACKSON having arrived from London has this day resumed the Chief Management of the Bank, by Order of the Court of Directors, WADE GARDNER, Acting Chief Manager. Hongkong 13th May, 1890. [734]

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PERSEVERANCE LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 1165.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, on FRIDAY, the 16th inst., at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely. Hongkong, 9th May, 1890. [743]

Intimations.

THE EAST BORNEO PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given to Holders of Shares in the above Company on which CALLS are still unpaid, that unless said CALLS with Interest at the rate of 12 1/2 per annum from the due dates are paid on or before the 15th day of May next, at the Company's Office, 15, Ice House Lane, the Shares in respect of which such calls were made will be liable to be forfeited, and under the provisions of Article X. Subsection VII. of the Articles of Association, the Board will pass the necessary resolutions for the forfeiture of the said Shares. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 28th April, 1890. [685]

SOCIETE FERMIERE DE L'OPIMUM AU TONKIN, SOCIETE ANONYME.

CAPITAL 1,440,000 FRANCS.

SHAREHOLDERS are hereby informed that after the 10th instant, the INTEREST AND DIVIDEND WARRANTS for the year 1889 will only be payable at the Company's Head Office at Hanoi.

R. DE ST. MATHURIN, Managing Director. Hongkong, 28th April, 1890. [685]

HONGKONG HIGH LEVEL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given to Holders of Shares in the above Company bearing the following numbers:—
484, 511/520, 561/565, 571/580, 511/520, 681/690, 771/785, 791/810, 961/990, 1021/1040, 1071/1070, 1111/1115, 1121/1135, 1156/1160, 1206/1210, 1225/1226 and 1229/1230.

on which the SECOND CALL of \$50 per Share due 31st July, 1889, is still unpaid, that unless the said call, with Interest at the rate of 9 1/2 per Annum, be paid to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, or the General Managers at the Co.'s Office, Nos. 50 and 52, Queen's Road Central, on or before the 17th May, 1890, the Shares will be liable to be forfeited. MACLEWEN, FRICKEL & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 24th April, 1890. [620]

W. S. MARTEN,

ARTISTIC DECORATOR,

2, DUDELL STREET,

HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 9th April, 1890. [574]

CARBOLEUM AVENARIUS,

(REGISTERED).

A N ANTISEPTIC PAINT for the Preservation of Wood, Walls, Ropes and Ship's Tackle. May be applied to Beams, Floors, Wainscoting, Wooden Ornament, Eaves, Roofs, Wooden Sheds, Farmers' and Gardeners' Implements, Carts, Posts, Fences, Stables, Gates, Bridges, Boats, and all Timber underground. Effectually excludes all dampness from walls painted with it and entirely prevents the crumbling away and decay of both stone and brick. While ants do not touch wood painted with Carbolium Avenarius. Used during the last 14 years with the utmost success, as proved by numerous Testimonials of living authorities. Sold in casks of about 450 lbs. net. Price 8 cents per lb. For further particulars, apply to SCHEELE & Co., Sole Agents. No. 16, Stanley Street. Hongkong, 2nd December, 1889. [36]

CAPTAIN GEORGE TAYLOR,

INLAND SEA AND JAPAN COAST PILOT.

Telegraphic Address: POWERS, Nagasaki. Hongkong, 8th April, 1890. [571]

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD WANCHAI.

OREGON PINE SPARS and LUMBER Always on Hand. L. MALLORY. Hongkong 24th June 1881. [738]

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For sale

FOR SALE.

AT WHOLESALE PRICES.

SACCONES' SHERRY: PORT, CLARET, HOCK, BRANDIES, WHISKIES, MACHINERY, GAS ENGINES, SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES, SCALES, PAINTS, OILS AND VARNISH, BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES. SODA WATER MACHINERY, JET'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS, BICYCLE WHEELS FOR JINRICKSHAWS.

Apply to
W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.,
Bank Buildings,
HONGKONG, 21st November 1890.

JUST ARRIVED, FOR SALE.

THE New Stem Winder and Enamelled Dial WATERBURY WATCH.

SERIES J—For Gentlemen's, or large size.
SERIES L—For Ladies', or small size.

For Wristless than a dozen turns!

\$4.75 Jewelled, Dust-proof, Keyless, with
each. all the latest improvements, A
perfect and unsurpassed timekeeper;
reliable, durable and accurate,
and also

SERIES E—The "Good old favorite." The
best form of the original Waterbury: offered at
the reduced price of **\$2.70** each.

Orders from Out-ports to be accompanied
with remittance for cost.

THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA,
Sole Agents in Japan, China,
Corea, Hongkong & Macao.
No. 10, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
HONGKONG, 20th February 1900.

FOR SALE.

THE Schooner "MONTIARA,"

Length... 75 feet.
Beam... 18 "
Depth of hold... 7 1/2 "
Registered tonnage... 75 tons.
(Owing to recent alterations the carrying
capacity of the *Montiara* has been increased to
about 120 tons, dead weight.)

The *Montiara* was built in Singapore, and is
most solidly constructed of oak throughout, with
iron-wood frames. She has recently been
thoroughly overhauled under experienced Euro-
pean superintendence, fastened throughout with
7 inch galvanized spikes, and newly re-coppered.
She is lorch rigged with the best canvas sail.
Draft of water 7 feet.

For further particulars apply to
R. FRASER-SMITH,
6, Pedder's Hill.

Hongkong, 9th April, 1890.

FOR SALE.

AT THE PEAK.

"THE FALLS" on R. B. L. No. 28—
let on lease for one year.

For full particulars, apply to
**THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.**
Hongkong, 12th November, 1890.

NOW READY.

**THE HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB
RACE MEETING, 1890.**

A Full Descriptive Report, in pamphlet form.

Orders may be sent to the following Agents:

Mr. W. Brewer.
Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.
Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.
The Hongkong Trading Co., Ltd.
or to
The "Hongkong Telegraph" Office,
Pedder's Hill.
Hongkong, 8th March, 1890.

G. FALCONER & CO.,
WATCH AND CHRONOMETER MANU-
FACTURERS AND JEWELLERS,
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENT
CHARTS AND BOOKS.
No. 48, Queen's Road Central.


INTIMATION

F. Blackhead & Co.,
SHIP-CHANDLERS, SAIL-MAKERS
AND
PROVISION MERCHANTS,
NAVY CONTRACTORS,
AND
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS
No. 11, Praya Central,
(Opposite Pedder's Wharf).

SOLE AGENT
for
RAHTJEN'S
GENUINE
COMPOSITION
FOR
THE BOTTOMS OF IRON SHIPS.

HARTMAN'S GREY PAINT, specially man-
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CARBOLINEUM AVENARIUM
PRESERVATIVE AGAINST
ROTTING, DECAY, &c., of WOOD.



SAPOLIO.
ENOCH MORGAN'S SON'S
SAPOLIO
OR GENERAL CLEANING PURPOSE
CHR. MOTZ & Co., BORDEAUX, CLARET

MAX HAASEN'S FRANKFURT on M.
 CONSERVED MEATS,
 VEGETABLES and FRUIT
 CEMENT from the celebrated Factory of Her-
 moor,
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 LUMBER.
 FLENSBURG STOCKBEER,
 ENGINEERS' and BLACKSMITHS'
 MACHINERY and TOOLS,
 EVERY KIND OF
 SHIP'S STORES and REQUISITES
 ALWAYS IN STOCK
 AT
 REASONABLE PRICES.
 ALL KINDS OF
 COALS
 SUPPLIED AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE
 (Hongkong, 26th June, 1889.) (1)

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